

Commander's spotlight Maj Roger "Tug" Dellinger 40th Helicopter Flight commander

Time in service: 14 years, seven months

College: Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania; Golden Gate University

Last assignment: Chief, rated and support officer assignments, Air Force Space Command; operations officer, 40th HF

Leadership philosophy: Mission accomplishment and taking care of my people are my number one goals. I believe each and every person can be a positive influence in someone else's life. "Make a difference."

Goals for organization: Continue outstanding aviation support to the 341st Space Wing, Air Force Space Command and the good people of Montana.



Photo by MSgt Michael Hertges

Maj Roger Dellinger (center) accepts the 40th Helicopter Flight guidon from Col Allen Kirkman, 341st Operations Group commander, during the change-of-command ceremony at Club Malmstrom June 1.

Roche sworn in as 20th AF secretary

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Dr. James Roche was sworn in as the 20th secretary of the Air Force June 1 during a ceremony at the Pentagon.

David Cooke, director of administration and management for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, administered the oath of office. Sec. Roche was nominated by the president May 7 and confirmed by the Senate May 24.

As secretary, Sec. Roche is responsible for the functioning and efficiency of the Air Force, the formulation of the service's policies and programs, and the timely implementation of decisions and instructions of the president and the secretary of defense.

"I am honored to be confirmed as the secretary of the Air Force, and to join one of the most innovative, dedicated and respected teams the world has known — the United States Air Force," Sec. Roche said. "I appreciate the confidence and trust the president, the secretary of defense and the Senate have in me to lead this proud aerospace team. I consider it an esteemed privilege to have this opportunity to serve with the Air Force's outstanding men and women."



James Roche, Secretary of the Air Force

"Over the past decade, our nation has demanded increasingly more effort and sacrifice from the Air Force team — our active-duty airmen, civil servants, Guardsmen, Reservists and contractors — and that team has responded brilliantly," Sec. Roche said. "The American people have the highest confidence in our military forces and are justifiably proud of the Air Force's numerous achievements and bright future."

"We must now respond to this century's new and emerging national security environment by fostering even more constructive relationships among the services to more fully integrate for joint and combined operations," he said.

Sec. Roche is a retired Navy captain and was a recipient of the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy for the Navy's most improved combat unit in the Pacific in 1974.

"(I look) forward to piloting the journey ahead for the Air Force," he said. "My vision is an aerospace future just as remarkable as its admired past. My pledge is that I will serve the way Air Force men and women do every day throughout the world, with integrity, selflessness and in earnest pursuit of excellence."

"We welcome Secretary Roche and his family to the Air Force team," said Gen Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff.

Air Force reaches recruiting milestone

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFP) — The Air Force reached its first milestone in meeting this year's recruiting goal with the recent signing of its 34,600th enlistment contract.

With 22,027 new airmen sent to basic training since the beginning of the fiscal year, the Air Force has more than enough contracts with new recruits to enter basic training by Sept. 30 to meet its annual goal of 34,600.

"This is a great accomplishment for our country, the Air Force and our recruiters," said Brig Gen Duane Deal, Air Force Recruiting Service commander. "We increased the number of our recruiters, utilized enlistment bonuses, and continued an aggressive advertising and marketing campaign, and basically worked very hard. However, we won't let up; we're definitely still hiring."

The last time AFRS achieved this milestone during May was in 1986.

"What is exceptionally special about this announcement is that it occurred during the month of May, which happens to be the last of our toughest accession months," said Col James Holaday, chief of the AFRS operations division.

Recruits cite the opportunity to further their education as the top reason for joining the Air Force, according to a recent survey. All new recruits are automatically enrolled in the Community College of the Air Force; the only accredited junior college among the armed services.

"When our great recruiters talk to young people today," Brig Gen Deal said, "they recognize that joining the Air Force equals enrolling in college. It's automatic on their enlistment, and new trainees earn between 15 and 72 college hours when they complete training, depending on their skill areas. Added to that, they are gaining a skill, immediate responsibility and being part of the world's greatest aerospace team."

(Courtesy of AFRS News Service)